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DEC 17 2003

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BENTON et al.) Examiner: TUCKER, Philip C.
Application No.: 10/076,209)
Filed: February 14, 2002) Group Art Unit: 1712
Docket No.: 00072CIP (3600-306-01)) Confirmation No.: 8589

For: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 17, 2003

Sir:

Applicants petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time from the Office Action dated August 1, 2003 for two months, from November 1, 2003, to January 1, 2004.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 03-0060 in the amount of \$ 420.00 to cover the cost of the extension fee for a large entity. In the event that any additional fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke A. Kilyk

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